

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The allowance of claims 11-20 and the indication of the allowability of claims 9-10 is acknowledged. The subject matter of claim 9 has been incorporated into new claim 21, and claim 9 has been canceled. It is believed that new claim 21 and dependent claim 10 should now be allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the cavity in which the high-density weight is secured opens toward the wheel (and not toward the street), as seen in Fig. 4. Claim 5 has been amended, taking the Examiner's formal objections with respect to 35 USC § 112, second paragraph into consideration.

It is submitted that amended claim 1 defines an invention that would not be obvious from the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 4,379,596 to Green et al. in view of the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 6,676,224 to Kogure et al. Green et al. disclose the attachment of a heavy weight body 12 comprising a mass of heavy metal, typically lead or lead alloy, which preferably has a number of cutout regions 32, which can be square (Fig. 4) or cylindrical (Fig. 5). These cutouts 32 facilitate the incorporation of additional small lead weights 48 which allow fine-tuning of the balancing of the wheel by slightly increasing the overall weight provided by the heavy mass 20. In Figure 2, a layer of adhesive 72 is used to secure the rear surface of the square additional weight 48 in the cutout region.

Kogure et al. disclose the use of an auxiliary plate that would be attached to the circular rim of a wheel assembly, which plate would cover the entire rim. On its interior surface, the plate carries a track that is aligned radially to the axis of the wheel. A balance weight is then positioned at a desired location along the track between the axis and the outer circumference of this plate (where it is hidden from view). The weight must be appropriately positioned at a location along this radial track so as to balance the wheel with

the tire installed. The weight might be secured in its desired radial location by double-faced adhesive tape or by a screw or the like. The entire circular plate might be molded of polymeric resin; however, it is there that any similarity ends.

Applicant's balance weight assembly is attached about a flange edge portion of a vehicle wheel rim, not to the inner surface of a circular plate 7 such as used Kogure et al. It is submitted that the solutions to the problem of wheel balancing presented by Green et al. and Kogure et al. are like apples and oranges, and there would be no impetus other than in hindsight to attempt to combine these disclosures. It is accordingly submitted that such combination of references is improper and should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Amended claim 1 now recites that the balance weight assembly is a polymeric body which includes a metal clip and which defines an elongated cavity for holding a separate, elongated high-density weight. Amended claim 1 further recites that the elongated cavity opens toward the wheel (rather than the opposite direction towards the street as do the cutouts 32 in the Green et al. device). This simple straightforward situation provides positive protection to prevent the escape of the high density weight from the cavity when the assembly is attached to the wheel flange and is clearly not a feature of Green, et al.

It is now recited in claim 5 that the elongated high density weight has a cross-section substantially less than the cross-section of the elongated cavity (as can be seen in Figure 4) and that the remainder of the cavity is filled with the polymeric fill material so as to substantially envelop the weight. This further positively prevents the weight from escaping from the cavity and further distinguishes from the teaching of Green et al. where only a flat layer of adhesive is only employed along the rear surface of the weight.

It is submitted that, in view of the amendments and remarks, claim 1 and dependent claims 3-7 should also be allowed, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

It is believed that this application has now been placed in condition for allowance and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Joseph Sery

Joseph Sery
C/O Tungsten Heavy Powder
9090 Kenamar Drive
San Diego, CA 92121
Telephone: 858-693-6100